



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Minnesota

Landowner _____

Purpose

The purpose of the CP-27 practice is to restore, to the maximum extent possible, the functions and values of wetland ecosystems 5.0 acres or less in size that have been devoted to agricultural use.

The purpose of CP-28 is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and create or enhance upland wildlife habitat.



Where used

On cropland which once supported the habitat to be restored and managed, including land retired from agricultural production entered in retirement programs.

Conservation Management System

These practices are usually all that is required to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System. There may be other resource concerns present and could require other practices to also be installed to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit of the cover that will result from this practice.

Wildlife

These practices are well suited for wildlife food, cover and water. Selection of the vegetative plant community within the wetland and associated upland buffer will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the wetland restoration and upland buffer planting with other wildlife practices or plantings may further enhance the cover.

Planning Considerations

1. Wetland hydrology must be restored to the maximum extent possible. Cessation of cropping a wetland will be considered restoration if no hydrologic manipulation has occurred.
2. The effects on upstream drainage must be considered.
3. Select plant species and varieties best adapted to the climate and the soils in the field being established to permanent vegetative cover.
4. Establish vegetative buffers on associated uplands to reduce the movement of sediment, and provide nesting cover.
5. Consider the long term use, objectives and wildlife species to benefit in selection of the vegetative community to be established.
6. Consider linking wetlands by corridors wherever possible to enhance the wetlands use and colonization by flora and fauna.
7. Restoration goals and objectives shall include targeted natural wetland functions for the wetland type and site location.
8. Proper management of the restored area is essential to achieve and maintain the full potential of the site for the desired habitat type.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (657) Wetland Restoration, Chapter 13 Engineering Field Handbook and supplemental CRP wetland restoration design worksheets.

Grass seeding establishment procedures and adapted cultivars are covered in the standard and specification for Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).

Nutrients

For introduced grasses and legume buffers, a soil test from the year of seeding or during the two preceding calendar years is required to determine the need for commercial fertilizer and liming materials

Lime and fertilizer are usually not required for native grass buffers. However, if previous soil test history, current soil test results or the soils inherent fertility is low in phosphorus, apply 50 pounds P_2O_5 per acre prior to seeding.

Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.



Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.
2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.
3. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: (1) treating with chemicals per label directions, or (2) spot mow before seed heads form. Delay control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife. Spot treatment on problem areas may be authorized by FSA during the primary nesting season.
4. Re-seed any areas that do not have adequate permanent cover.

5. Protect the acres from planned haying and grazing (incidental grazing is allowed). Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of the year.
6. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.
7. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.
8. Manage native grass or grass-legume buffers at least once during the contract to rejuvenate grass quality and vigor. Management should occur within 4-5 years of adequate vegetative establishment. Maintain a 3-4 year rest period between scheduled management actions and previous CRP emergency haying/grazing activities. Management options include; (1) prescribed burning, (2) mowing with residue removed in accordance with FSA requirements, or (3) light disking. Management activities must take place prior to May 15 or between August 1 and September 1. For fields greater than 20 acres, no more than 50% of the field should be manipulated in a given year.
9. Do not use the field for disposal of livestock or organic waste unless that use is authorized in the additional specifications and remarks.
10. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.
11. Maintain water control structures in a safe and effective manner for the duration of the contract.



Job Sketch or Map **CP27/28**

CP27/28

An aerial view, or if needed an aerial photo of the area to be seeded to Native Grasses can be shown below. Other relevant information, such as complementary practices, and adjacent field or tract conditions including structures and crop type, and additional specifications may be included.

[illegible]

Additional Specifications and Notes

[illegible]

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Specifications Sheet

Landowner _____ Tract Number(s) _____ Field Number(s) _____

FSA Contract Number _____ Total Acres to be Restored _____ Prepare By _____

Pure Live Seed Needs			Bulk Seed Need (To		
(1) Species	(2) Strain or Variety	(3) PLS lbs./ac *	(6) Purity	(7) Germination	(8) Bulk lbs. needed (3)/(6x7)

Wetland Acres Restored _____ X Cost/Acre _____ = Cost Estimate _____ X Cost Share Rate _____ = Estimated Wetland F

*** Note: %PLS = %Germination x %Purity. To obtain pounds of bulk seed needed, use the following: (PLS lb x Purity)**

Specific Recommendations:

Planned Application Date _____

Companion Crop _____ Seeding Dates _____ Seedbed Preparation Method _____

Fertilizer Recommendations _____

Additional Operation and Maintenance _____

Participant _____ Date _____

NRCS _____ Date _____

Farm Services Agency _____ Date _____

SWCD _____ Date _____